

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-07

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R 052057Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7977

UNCLAS OTTAWA 4156

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, AFSP, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN POSTAL STRIKE-- FEDERAL BENEFIT CHECK DELAY

REF: ST JOHN'S 277 (NOT SENT DEPT)

1. AS YOU CAN IMAGINE WITH 49,000 RECIPIENTS OF MONTHLY CHECKS IN CANADA, PRESSURES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO BEAR FROM MANY SOURCES INCLUDING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AS TO JUST WHAT EMBASSY INTENDS TO DO TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE RECIPIENTS IN THE COURSE OF THE POSTAL STRIKE. A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN THE EVENT POSTAL TALKS BREAKDOWN AND A FORECAST OF A LENGTHY STRIKE IS PREDICTED. BEST ESTIMATES ARE THAT IT WOULD TAKE US A MINIMUM OF THREE WEEKS AND CONSIDERABLE MONEY TO SET EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CHECKS INTO ACTION. US TREASURY, OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICES, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, NEWS MEDIA IN CANADA, ELEMENTS WITHIN CANADIAN GOVT INCLUDING POSTMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, AGREE THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE BENEFICIARIES NOT TO IMPLEMENT EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AT LEAST UNTIL MANAGEMENT AND LABOR ANNOUNCE A BREAKDOWN OF TALKS THAT WILL RESULT IN A FURTHER MONTH OF POST OFFICE CLOSURES. EMBASSY HOPEFUL THAT ANNOUNCEMENT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER WILL BE MADE BY NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 7.

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WM SHOULD AN EXTENDED POSTAL STRIKE BE ANNOUNCED EVERY

EFFORT WILL BE MADE THROUGH ALL FORMS OF THE MEDIA TO
ADVISE PEOPLE OF HOW AND WHEN THEIR CHECKS CAN BE OBTAINED.
APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN FOR RECIPIENTS IN YOUR DISTRICT,
BUT BEAR IN MIND THERE ARE SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF RECIPIENTS
LIVING IN THE CALGARY, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND VANCOUVER
DISTRICTS, MANY OF WHOM ARE CALLING IN ON A FREQUENT
BASIS.
PORTER

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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